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Message Text

SECRET

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12
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
---------- 121207
R 300627Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY SANAA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3136
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

S E C R E T SANAA 2457

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MASS, YE, TC, JO, US
SUBJ: YEMEN ARMS PACKAGE

REF: A. SANAA 2391 B. ABU DHABI 1684
C. ABU DHABI 1641 D. SANAA 2422
E. SANAA 1967

1. COINCIDENTALLY AND JUST PRIOR RECEIPT REFTEL B,
YAR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF MUHAMMAD IRYANI, WHO HAD RETURNED
PREVIOUS DAY FROM VISIT TO ETHIOPIA, ASKED ME TO
CALL AT MILITARY HEADQUARTERS. HE INQUIRED ABOUT
STATUS OF U.S. ARMS SALE THROUGH SAUDI ARABIA FINANCED
BY ABU DHABI. I GAVE HIM THE FULL STORY AS I KNEW IT
PRIOR RECEIPT REFTEL B INCLUDING INQUIRIES
PUT TO UAE AMBASSADOR SUWEIDI AND YAR AMBASSADOR
QUBATI BY PRESIDENTIAL POLITICAL ADVISER NU'MAN,
QUBATI'S HESITANCY REFLECTED REF C, QUBATI'S PUZZLING REPLY
TO NU'MAN'S REQUEST (REF D) AND NU'MAN'S REQUEST THAT US EMBASSY
ABU DHABI HELP TO CLARIFY. U.S. REPRESENTATIVES, I POINTED
OUT, DOING EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO SPEED MATTER TO CONCLUSION.
CONFUSION AND DELAY SEEMED TO LIE ON YEMENI SIDE.

2. CIC SAID AMBASSADOR QUBATI HAD LONG SINCE GOTTEN
HIS ORDERS AND HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND HOW THERE
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COULD BE CONFUSION. HE HAD PERSONALLY BRIEFED

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QUBATI ON DETAILS OF TRANSACTION BEFORE QUBATI RETURNED
TO ABU DHABI AFTER SUMMER LEAVE. AN ORDER FROM
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF YEMEN ARMED FORCES, IRYANI
SAID, WAS AN ORDER FROM YARG; QUBATI SHOULD KNOW
THAT NO ACTION LIKELY BE TAKEN AT THAT LEVEL THAT HAD NOT BE
DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT AND CIVILIAN LEADERSHIP (SIC). HE
WOULD CABLE QUBATI REITERATED INSTRUCTIONS.

3. COMMENT: WE DON'T DOUBT THAT SANAA AUTHORITIES,
MILITARY AND CIVILIAN, HAVE FAILED CONSULT COMPLETELY
WITH EACH OTHER AND HAVE KEPT QUBATI LESS THAN FULLY
IN THE PICTURE. HOWEVER, WE ALSO A BIT SKEPTICAL
OF SOME OF QUBATI'S STATEMENTS IN VIEW CIC'S
REFERENCE TO HIS PERSONAL BRIEFING OF QUBATI AND
EARLIER QUITE SPECIFIC PARALLEL ASSURANCE BY ACTING
FONMIN ASNAG (REF E). IN ANY EVENT, WE WILL PURSUE
WITH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER NU'MAN WHEN HE RETURNS
FROM BEIRUT IN WEEK OR SO EMBASSY ABU DHABI'S
SUGGESTIONS PARA SIX, REF A, IF MATTER NOT CLEARED
UP BEFORE THEN BY RENEWED INVOLVEMENT CIC IRYANI
AND/OR FORMAL ADG ASSURANCES THROUGH ITS AMBASSADOR
HERE.

4. RE PARA SEVEN, REF A, FACT THAT HE HAS NOT BEEN
IN TOUCH WITH US WOULD TEND INDICATE THAT UAE
AMBASSADOR SUWEIDI HAS NOT RECEIVED REPLY RE COMMIT-
*ENT. NOT WISHING TO GIVE HIM ANY MORE ROLE THAN HE
HAS ALREADY IN THIS SENSITIVE SUBJE T IN *IEW*HIS OWN
GOVERNMENT'S DOUBTS IN H S REGARD, WW HAVE PREFERRED
NOT TO TAKE THE INITIATI*E IN ASKING.
CRAWFORD

SECRET
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